

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL BAT GRIP

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 09/659,770, 5 filed September 11, 2000 which was a continuation-in-part of 09/179,600, filed October 27, 1998 which was a continuation-in-part of 08/581,455, filed December 29, 1995 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/187,308, filed January 25, 1994, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/089,712, filed July 9, 1993.

10 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a hand grip for baseball and softball bats. The invention is a one body member molded from thermoplastic or similar material for stretching over the bat knob on to the bat handle for being gripped with two hands of the batter providing knuckle alignment and for proper wrist roll and for increasing the gripping control and 15 reducing vibration, sting and blistering to the hands of the batter and is adjustable around the bat handle but essentially immovable when manually squeezed by the batter.

2. Description of Related Art

The game of baseball and softball at all levels is typically played with either a 20 wood or an aluminum bat, and is used to strike the ball. Although major baseball leagues still only use wooden bats, professional and amateur softball leagues, baseball and softball college leagues, high school baseball and softball leagues and little league baseball and softball mostly

use aluminum bats. Heretofore, players often use batting gloves to increase their gripping control when gripping the bat handle of the bat when striking the ball. Often the aluminum bat grip surface is made of a leather or synthetic wrapped grip that can be slippery, especially if the batters hands are sweaty or wet from the rain. When players use wooden bats, an 5 additional gripping additive is used of pine tar with batting gloves to achieve a better grip on the wooden bat. Using tar on wooden bats with batting gloves is often an unpleasant experience because of the sticky substance attaches to anything the player's touch. Baseball and softball players often use tap for their bat grip, but the drawbacks of this grip is the tap quickly becomes worn out and is then no longer suitable until replaced.

10 The present invention overcomes the problems of the prior art by providing for a substantial one body injected molded member bat grip that allows for added bat gripping control and power for any batter using an aluminum or wooden bat. The grip includes a raised surface portion for the batter to increase the gripping control and swing power by providing for proper knuckle alignment and is manufactured from a soft sticky material, thermoplastic or 15 the likes, reducing slippage by the batter's hands when sweaty and reducing slippage when batters are batting in the rain, and can expand up to two and one half (2 1/2) times the original size for stretching the grip over the bat knob onto the bat handle.

In alternative embodiments of the invention, one embodiment includes a plurality of finger receiving channels disposed about a longitudinally raised portion of the grip. In another 20 embodiment, the invention includes the disposed longitudinal raised portion with finger separating barriers to allow individual fingers of the batter to grasp the grip. In other

embodiments of the invention, the disclosed embodiments can also include a bottom outer portion that is tapered, starting approximately three inches (3") from the bottom of the grip and tapering down to the bottom end of the grip. In all the embodiments of grip options presented, it is further declared the invention is manually adjustable around the bat handle.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A grip for use with a ball bat such as a baseball or softball bat used to play the game of baseball and softball. The grip is comprised of a solid one body member and open at both ends and sized to fit movably snug around the bat handle, sized in length for being grasped by two hands simultaneously by the batter and having a single asymmetrical integral continuous longitudinal raised exterior surface portion for knuckle alignment and increasing the gripping control of the batter. The body member is composed of a material such as thermoplastic or the likes with a hardness that can be from 15 shore A to 30 shore A as the soft material for stretching over the bat knob onto the bat handle and creates a good surface for contact by the player's hands.

The one body member grip can also include a plurality of finger channels, or finger separating barriers, at least eight, in a side by side array along the raised exterior surface of the device to give the fingers of the user added gripping control.

20 The grip can also be molded as a solid one body member grip with the bottom outer portion tapered, starting approximately (3") from the bottom of the grip and tapering to the

bottom end of the grip and can include a plurality of finger channels, or finger separating barriers, in a side by side array along the raised exterior surface.

The invention (in all the disclosed embodiments) once installed onto the bat can be manually rotated around the bat handle to the users likes and to prolong the life of aluminum 5 bats.

It is therefore a principal object of this invention to provide an improved baseball or softball bat grip.

It is yet still another object of the invention to provide for an improved hand grip for a bat that can reduce vibration, stinging, and blistering to the hands and providing added bat 10 control for the user.

In accordance with these and other objects which will be apparent hereinafter, the instant invention will now become described with particular reference to the accompanying drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a side elevation view of the embodiment of the invention with the bottom tapered portion, installed on a baseball bat.

Figure 2C shows a side elevation view shown in Figure 1 without the baseball bat. 20 Figure 2D shows a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 2C.

Figure 2A shows a side elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2B shows a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 2A.

Figure 3A shows a side elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the invention.

Figure 3B shows a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 3A.

Figure 3C shows a side elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the invention.

5 Figure 3D shows a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 3C.

Figure 4A shows a side elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4B shows a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 4A.

Figure 4C shows a side elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4D shows a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 4C.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring now to the drawings, and in particular Figure 1, the present invention is shown generally at 10, comprised of a combination tapered bottom portion 11 as a one body member grip 12 attached around the handle of a baseball bat 9 and the knob of the bat 13 is

15 exposed.

The grip 12 is a one body member molded bat grip as a solid unit from thermoplastic material or the like that is open at both ends including a tapered bottom portion and having a raised portion that is disposed longitudinally 12a to knuckle alignment. Figure 13 shows the knob of a baseball bat. The batter can manually pull and move the raised asymmetrical 20 exterior surface hand grip around the bat handle until a desired location is found which provides for rotated ball impact to aluminum bats for prolonging the life of the aluminum bats.

The batter can also move the hand grip around the bat handle of wooden bats to line up the bat label and batters grip for proper grip alignment. Once the grip has been rotated around the bat handle to the position desirable by the batter, then the grip will stay in that position because the inside cylindrical passage size 15 of the grip is up to .150 inches smaller then the outside 5 diameter of the bat handle allowing the molded grip that is manufactured from thermoplastic material or the likes with a hardness that can be from 15 shore A to 30 shore A for stretching over the bat knob to fit firmly around the bat.

Figure 2A shows an alternate embodiment of the grip without the bottom tapering portion 11, and includes the raised ridge 12a for knuckle alignment that can be .250 inches at 10 the highest point and the opposite or back side of the grip is approximately .030 inches thick.

Figure 3A shows an alternate embodiment of the invention with out the bottom tapering portion with the remainder of the structure being similar and includes the exterior raised ridge with finger receiving channels 14 for added bat control. Figure 3B shows the top plan view of Figure 3A.

15 Figure 4A and 4B show the embodiment with out the bottom tapering portion that include separating barriers 16 for the fingers for both hands simultaneously while at the same time having a raised ridge 17 that provides for knuckle alignment while the fingers are separated by separating barriers 16.

Figure 2C shows an alternate embodiment of the invention and the structure being 20 similar to Figure 2A that includes the bottom tapering portion 18 to allow the bottom hand of the batter added gripping around the bat knob and tapering portion simultaneously. Figure 2D

shows the top plan view of Figure 2C. Figure 3C shows an alternate embodiment of the grip and the structure being similar to Figure 3A in conjunction with the bottom tapering portion 19 again, to allow the bottom hand of the batter added gripping around the bat knob and tapering portion simultaneously. Figure 3D shows the top plan view of Figure 3C. Figure 4C
5 shows yet another alternate embodiment of the grip and the structure also being similar to Figure 4A including the bottom tapering portion 20 allowing the bottom hand of the batter added gripping around the bat knob and tapering portion simultaneously. Figure 4D shows the top plan view of Figure 4C.

The invention has been shown and described herein in what is considered to be the
10 most practical and preferred embodiments, Figure 2A and Figure 2C. It is recognized, however, that departures may be made there from within the scope of the invention and that obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.